

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg, recessed from February 14, was held on the 28th day of February, 2006, at 1:00 P.M., Second Floor Training Room, City Hall, Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr., President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a work session regarding several items.

The following Members were present:

Present: Foster, Gillette, Helgeson, Johnson, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Absent: Dodson

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// Administrative and Grants Coordinator Melva Walker presented information regarding the unspent funds of all active Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME projects and a brief narrative regarding the current status of the projects and the planned expenditures of the available funds. Ms. Walker then provided a brief report regarding the proposed reprogramming of \$118,422 of unspent CDBG funds, stating that those funds would be available for distribution to other eligible CDBG projects in FY2007. In response to questioning, Ms. Walker confirmed that those funds are included in the upcoming recommendation from the Community Development Advisory Committee.

// Council Member Dodson arrived at 1:10 p.m. during the presentation regarding the Museum System.

// Museum Director Doug Harvey provided a status report regarding a number of issues related to the Museum System, as contained in a written summary previously submitted to Council. Following the presentation, Mr. Harvey informed that a museum consultant would be hired to develop a Museum Annex Study to identify the opportunities that exist for the City and ways to maximize the City's investment. Mr. Harvey went on to say that funding for the study would be taken from funds already budgeted in the FY2006 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for Old Courthouse Exhibits.

// Utilities Director Tim Mitchell presented an overview regarding the FY2007 Water and Sewer Rate Study and Utility Status Report, explaining that the proposed rate adjustments would result in a 4% increase in the water volume rate to \$1.89 per h.c.f., a 4% increase in the sewer volume rate to \$4.97 per h.c.f., a 3.6% increase to sewer only rates to \$38.48 per month, in addition to increases in the water and sewer connection fees. Mr. Mitchell stated that the increases are needed to meet existing operating and capital needs, meet financial targets, and maintain compliance with the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Special Order. Mr. Mitchell's presentation also focused on the challenges that the City will confront in the future due to the City's aging water infrastructure. Mr. Mitchell went on to say that a public hearing regarding the water and sewer rate increases would be held at an upcoming Council meeting.

// City Manager Kimball Payne introduced Debbie Campbell, Acting Director for the Neighborhood Network Alliance (NAN), explaining that Ms. Campbell was appointed Acting Director when former

NAN Director Albert Jennings left to take a position at Liberty University. Ms. Campbell presented a status report regarding the first six months of activity of NAN. In response to Council questioning, City Manager Payne explained that he still supports a three year commitment to the program with annual review and funding approval by City Council. Mr. Payne also informed that the Oversight Committee meets monthly with NAN staff to provide guidance and to review the goals and objectives set out in the NAN Work Plan. Mr. Payne went on to say that the goal is still to seek alternative funding sources for continuation of the program beyond the three year period.

// City Manager Kimball Payne provided an overview regarding three (3) projects that have requested a letter of support from the City in seeking 2006 Low Income Housing Tax Credits from the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA). Mr. Payne explained that projects compete based on a point system and that projects that receive a letter of support receive fifty (50) points, projects that receive a letter of opposition receive no points, and projects that receive no comment receive twenty-five (25) points. Mr. Payne went on to say that while no "official" City policy regarding low income housing tax credits was put in place following the January 24 work session, discussion was held that City Council may consider supporting only those low income housing tax credit projects that rehabilitate existing buildings and are located within target areas. Mr. Payne stated that only one project meets the discussed criteria, i.e., Village Oaks Apartments Rehabilitation Project, and that staff is recommending a letter of support for the Village Oaks Apartments Rehabilitation Project and a letter of opposition for the Timberlake Road Apartments and Timberlake Square projects. Representatives from the Timberlake Road Apartments and Timberlake Square projects were present and responded to questions from City Council members. Since no one was present to respond to questions regarding the Village Oaks Apartments Rehabilitation Project, City Council agreed to postpone action regarding the three requests until the March 14 work session and asked that staff schedule this as the first item on the work session agenda. City Council also asked that representatives from the Village Oaks Apartments Rehabilitation Project be invited to the work session.

// Deputy City Manager Bonnie Svrcek stated that in 2004 the City conducted its first Citizens Survey to gain information regarding citizen satisfaction with City services, and that it was agreed that the survey be repeated every two years. Ms. Svrcek went on to say that staff is now recommending that the survey be conducted during late May/early June in order to get results by July 31, and for City Council to consider topics for the three open-ended questions between now and the March 28 work session so that the survey can be developed and finalized.

// City Manager Kimball Payne provided a brief overview regarding a proposed amnesty program for the collection of delinquent personal property taxes. Following discussion, everyone agreed that it would not benefit the City to implement such a program.

// City Manager Kimball Payne provided a brief overview regarding a proposed process agreed to by Judges Mosby and Perrow for filling vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). Mr. Payne explained that the Code of Virginia requires every locality that has adopted a zoning ordinance to establish a Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and that the appointments to the BZA are made by the Judge(s) of the Circuit Court. Council Members were generally receptive to the proposed procedure, however, after discussion indicated its preference that the position always be advertised even in the event that an incumbent wishes to continue to serve. Some Council Members stated that advertising all potential or actual vacancies is a more open process. Mr. Payne stated that he would share this information with the Judges.

// During roll call, Council Member Helgeson expressed concern regarding the condition of the sidewalk on Sussex Street between Warren Avenue and Langhorne Lane. Mayor Hutcherson reported significant pot holes on Jackson Street between 8th and 11th Streets.

// The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Clerk of Council